



Ashumet Pond
MASHPEE - FALMOUTH
203 Acres

Not To Be Used For Navigational Purposes

ASHUMET POND

(Falmouth / Mashpee)

General Information:

Groundwater and an inlet feed this 203-acre natural kettlehole pond from a cranberry bog. Average depth is 23 feet; maximum depth is 65 feet. Transparency is good, extending a little beyond 12 feet, but aquatic vegetation is sparse. The pH (2/20/92) is 6.75. The pond is located just south of the Otis Air National Guard Base and is divided by the town line between Mashpee and Falmouth. The shoreline is pretty much surrounded by year round homes.

To get to Ashumet from the Bourne Bridge, take Route 28 south to Route 151 east, and then take a left onto Sandwich Road. The ramp is on the east side of the road near the intersection of Currier Road and Sandwich Road. A paved boat ramp with ample parking is provided by the Public Access Board and maintained by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. In recent years launching has been difficult for larger boats due to low water levels.

In 1863, the East Falmouth Herring River Company was formed to open a herring run from Bournes Pond in Falmouth. Due to a lack of gradient, the attempt was not successful, although traces of the ditch can still be seen.

This pond has been stocked with a wide variety of fish species over the years, starting with small mouth bass in 1919. It was reclaimed three times during the 1960s to improve conditions for trout. The pond was stocked with small mouth bass in 1978 and 1979 to establish a reproducing population.

Fish Populations:

A seining survey conducted in 1991 found young-of-the-year largemouth bass, banded killifish and golden shiners. A netting survey conducted in 1992 found yellow perch, banded killifish, small mouth bass, largemouth bass, eastern brook trout and brown bullhead. Netting and electrofishing surveys in 1992 also captured rainbow trout, alewives and one large brown trout.

Fishing:

Ashumet Pond is stocked in the spring and fall with rainbow and brook trout and is also a fair small mouth bass pond. Trout fishing is good in the spring and fall with an occasional holdover taken during the summer. Springs are concentrated in the northern end of the pond and should hold trout during the warmer months. Concerns over potential pollution from the Air Force Base have led to extensive sampling for possible contamination. Although no advisories have yet been issued, the prudent course of action is to avoid making a steady diet of fish from the pond.

March 1993